of a letter from Secretary, Agriculture, U.P. requesting provision of rake handling points at Jarwal Road (Bahraich district), Velthra Road (Ballia district), Bhadohi (Bhadohi district) and Roberts Ganj (Sonebhadra district) was received. A reply to this letter was sent stating that provision of rake handling facilities was not feasible at these points.

Deaths due to Air Pollution

*257. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution claims over 50,000 lives annually in 36 Indian cities;

(b) the number of deaths in Hyderabad, Kanpur and Delhi during last three years; and

(c) the action taken to contain air pollution in big cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) An article published by the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE), a non-governmental organisation, estimated that nearly 52,000 premature deaths in 36 Indian cities have occurred in 1995 due to air pollution. The estimation, however, is not based on actual figures and there is no conclusive scientific evidence to confirm these figures.

(b) No mortality data attributable to air pollution in Hyderabad, Kanpur and Delhi during last three years is available.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution include the following:

(1) The Government has formulataed a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(2) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

(3) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1.4.1995;

(4) The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

(5) A major programmed for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles is under implementation. The first phase covering the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, came into effect on 1.4.95

(6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.

(7) For control of pollution from vehicles, emision norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have also been notified and will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(8) Surveys have been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board on the vehicular emissions in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for taking mitigative measures.

(9) The ambient air quality of various cities and towns are being monitored regularly through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(10) Emission form highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(11) Emissions and ambient air quality standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Primary Schools in Orissa

*258. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there are 1084 primary schools without rooms in Orissa;

(b) whether any evaluation has been conducted in Orissa, regarding centrally Sponsored Schemas of Operation Black-Board and Non-Formal Education Programmes; and

(c) the details of the remedial action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the Sixth All India Educational Survey (AIES) 1993, conducted by NCERT, New Delhi 734 primary schools in Orissa had no rooms.

(b) Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Operation Black-Board (OB) and Non-Formal Education (NFE) have been evaluated in various States including Orissa.

(c) The evaluation report indicates deficiencies in implementation of Operation Black-Board such as delay in construction of class rooms, inadequate teacher training and centralised purchase of uniform teaching learning equipment for all schools.

As a follow up on the evaluation report, State Government have been given flexibility to select teaching learning equipment relevant for the State. They have also been advised to decentralise purchases under the scheme. A Special Orientation programme for training of primary teachers has been initiated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education to Facilitate better utilisation of OB materials.

With regard to NFE programme, the deficiencies pointed out by the evaluation report in respect of monitoring, coordination, need to fill up vacant posts, adequate training to NFE functionaries regularity in payment of honorarium have been brought to the notice of Government of Orissa for remedical action.

This Department has been monitoring action taken in this regard in Regional Review meetings of Education Secretaries.

Development of Train Systems for Cities

*259. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are ready to go in for joint venture with State Governments to develop train systems for cities;